

TABLE 2 -- Area Coverage

AREA	Possible No. of Counties	No. Counties Participating	No. Party Hours	Average No. Party Hours Per County
1	23	20 (87%)	696	34.80
2	28	27 (96%)	848	31.41
3	27	26 (96%)	1493	57.42
4	24	23 (96%)	2288	99.48
TOTAL	102	96 (94%)	5325	55.47

TABLE 3 -- Species Accounts for the 1996 Spring Bird Count**Key to Table:**

** = New Spring Bird Count Species

* = New Spring Bird Count High Count

= Ties previous High Count

Species seen in only one county are bolded

Species	Total No. Of		High County	(Total)
	Co.s	Birds		
Common Loon	14	30	Two counties	(6)
Pied-billed Grebe	73*	831*	Two counties	(109)
Horned Grebe	6	12	Three counties	(3)
Eared Grebe	2	2	Two counties	(1)
American White Pelican	12*	348*	Carroll	(*86)
Double-crested Cormorant	57*	8225*	Cook	(*4132)
American Bittern	18	28	Lake	(4)
Great Blue Heron	96	3028	Cook	(187)
Great Egret	59*	1213#	Will	(236)
Snowy Egret	12*	38*	St. Clair	(*17)
Little Blue Heron	25*	277	Union	(54)
Cattle Egret	26	942	St. Clair	(507)
Green Heron	81	584	Cook	(65)
Black-crowned Night-Heron	21	1407	Cook	(*1246)
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	8	29	Jackson	(10)
Mute Swan	15	102	Lake	(17)
Greater White-fronted Goose	6*	9*	Sangamon	(*3)
Snow Goose	6#	39	Brown	(29)
Canada Goose	92	13894	Du Page	(1977)
Wood Duck	92	3419*	Cook	(203)
Green-winged Teal	31*	260*	Carroll	(36)
American Black Duck	10	30	Grundy	(7)
Mallard	94	7538	Du Page	(1092)
Northern Pintail	6	13	Hancock	(6)
Blue-winged Teal	86*	6353*	Cook	(*452)
Cinnamon Teal	1#	1	Henry	(1)
Northern Shoveler	63*	1206*	Clinton	(*116)
Gadwall	37*	490*	Lake	(*84)
American Wigeon	17*	95	Lake	(*46)
Canvasback	4	11	Fulton	(#6)
Redhead	9	47*	Calhoun	(*22)
Ring-necked Duck	17	374	Cook	(90)
Greater Scaup	5*	141*	Cook	(*124)
Lesser Scaup	60*	2998*	Hancock	(*1109)
Surf Scoter	2#	4*	Two counties	(2)
White-winged Scoter	2#	9*	Cook	(*8)
Common Goldeneye	1	1	Knox	(1)
Bufflehead	23*	185*	Cook	(#84)
Hooded Merganser	25*	71*	Cook	(*15)
Common Merganser	8	17	Will	(5)

Twenty-two Illinois counties had 20 or more participants compared with 23 last year. Cook had 115. DuPage had 100. The total party hours and miles walked and driven approached record levels (Tables 1 and 2). The county coverage for 1996 was 96, one less than for 1995. Those counties not reporting were Marion, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Stark, and Wayne.

Species of Interest

(See Table 3)

One species, Whimbrel, was added to the all-time list, and with the return of the Bullock's Oriole to species status (reported in 1994), it brings the Spring Bird Count up to 318 species for the 25 years of count records. At least two Whimbrels were seen, with two reports from Cook (which could have been the same individual), and one from Lake.

New highs were recorded for 51 species plus 6 ties. There were 31 new highs of individuals of a species seen within one county plus 5 ties.

All-time high counts were recorded for Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican (triple the previous high), Double-crested Cormorant (almost double the previous high), and Snowy Egret. Great Egrets tied for the high with 1995.

Waterfowl numbers were strong, probably due to the early date and cool weather. Thirteen species were found in all-time record numbers, about half the species in the group. They were Greater White-fronted Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Redhead, Greater and Lesser scaup, Surf and White-winged scoter, Bufflehead, and Hooded Merganser.

Also counted were record numbers of Osprey, American Kestrel, and Peregrine Falcon, plus ties for Northern Goshawk and Merlin. Northern Goshawk was found for only the fourth year. American Coots were also at a new high by about 4,000.

Among shorebirds, gulls, and terns we had all-time highs for Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Long-billed Dowitcher, Laughing, Glaucous and Great Black-backed gulls,